



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of June 13, 2009**

DATE: May 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Appropriation of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to update the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Appropriate, in FY 2010, \$260,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (101.374900) to the Office of Emergency Management (101.32020) for the revision of the regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

ISSUES: The FEMA grant of \$260,000 requires a local, in-kind match of \$86,660 for a total of \$346,660. The local match will be shared by the major Northern Virginia regional jurisdictions (Arlington County, City of Alexandria, Loudon County, Fairfax County, and Prince William County) that have each committed to their share of the match. Arlington will use in-kind services to cover the match amount.

SUMMARY: Arlington Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was awarded Disaster Mitigation funding to revise the regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan. OEM will coordinate a steering committee, the Northern Virginia Mitigation Steering Committee, inclusive of the regional jurisdictions and hire a contractor to rewrite the Plan. This is a three year process and the grant period is from April 30, 2009 through March 31, 2012.

BACKGROUND: Congressman Moran was able to allocate FEMA funding to Arlington County in order for OEM to coordinate revisions to the regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan under the guidelines of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The regional plan will outline specific actions designed to address and reduce the impact of a full range of natural and man-made hazards facing the region, and will be presented to the Board for approval when it is complete.

DISCUSSION: The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that all localities update their Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years. The updating process involves a local capability analysis, an update of the existing natural disaster risk assessment (to include updated flood mapping and improved GIS technology), a man-made hazard risk assessment (to include potential impacts from infrastructure failure), and preparation/revision of hazard mitigation

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Jack Brown, Office of Emergency Management

strategies for each locality. Successful completion of the plan will require cooperation from several departments in the county.

FEMA's ultimate approval of the revised plan will allow Arlington, and participating Northern Virginia jurisdictions, to receive federal Homeland Security grants and is a requirement for continued area funding under the Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. The resulting mitigation strategy from this planning effort will aid the County in prioritizing future funds by identifying the projects and properties most in need of mitigation activities.

FISCAL IMPACT: Receipt of the grant funding is contingent on a 25% local match, which will be shared among the participating jurisdictions and is expected to be sufficiently covered with in-kind personnel hours over the three year performance period. Arlington County's share of the local match is \$21,049.